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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOAA'S Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Seeks Advisory Council Applicants

NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants for *ten* primary seats and ten alternate seats on its advisory council, which ensures public participation in sanctuary management and provides advice to the sanctuary superintendent. The deadline for applications has been extended until Jan. 15, 2011.

"The Office of National Marine Sanctuary program is pleased to provide an opportunity to the residents of Lana'i and Moloka'i to participate in advising the management of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback whale national marine sanctuary," said Allen Tom, Acting Superintendent and Pacific Islands Regional Director. "These two new seats will also enable community members of both islands to help plan the future of their national marine sanctuary. I am pleased that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has responded to the request from the local community for these two new seats."

The sanctuary is accepting applications for primary and alternate seats representing Commercial Shipping, Whale Watching, Ocean Recreation, Business/Commerce, Citizen-at-Large, Conservation, and Tourism. Additionally, for the first time, the sanctuary is seeking to fill primary and alternate seats for Lana'i and Moloka'i Islands Representatives. The sanctuary is also accepting applications for the Honolulu County primary seat and Research alternate seat.

Candidates are selected based on their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, and views regarding the protection and management of marine resources. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve two -year terms.

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in March 1996 to ensure continuous public participation in the management of the sanctuary. The council's 19 voting members and 15 non-voting members, who serve on a volunteer basis, represent a variety of local user groups, the general public, and state and federal governmental jurisdictions. Alternates attend meetings when primary members are not available and assume a seat if a primary member resigns.

Applications are due by Jan. 15, 2011. To receive an application kit or for further information, please contact council coordinator Joe Paulin via e-mail at Joseph.Paulin@noaa.gov, by phone at 808-397-2651, ext. 257, or visit the sanctuary website at http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov. Completed applications should be submitted to: Joe Paulin, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, 6600 Kalanianaole Highway, Suite 301, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825.

The HIHWNMS is administered by a partnership of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program and the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources. NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit http://www.noaa.gov. On the Web: Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary: http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov

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